Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THOMAS TRACY BOUVÉ.

THOMAS TRACY BOUVÉ, Resident Fellow of the Academy, was born on Prince Street, in Boston, January 14, 1815, and died in the city of his birth, June 3, 1896. He was of Huguenot descent. His parents were Ephraim Osborn and Lydia (Tracy) Bouvé, and his paternal grandfather was Jonathan Bouvé, a soldier of the Revolution. In 1839 he married Emily G. Lincoln; and his wife and five children survive him.

Very early in life he attended a private school; at the age of seven years he entered the Eliot public school, received the Franklin medal when twelve years of age, and then entered the English High School. It being necessary for him to do something for self-support, he left the school and entered a dry goods store. At fifteen he entered the service of an iron manufacturing company, where he became bookkeeper and chief accountant; later, he entered the office of the Hamilton, Appleton, and Lowell Manufacturing Companies to take charge of the books of these respective companies, and he also kept the books of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company. When about twenty-six years of age, Mr. Bouvé became a partner in a commission iron house, remaining in the business thirty years; and in 1870 he became treasurer of the Glendon Iron Company, retaining this office until his death.

Although his life was thus burdened to the end with the cares and responsibilities of a successful business career, they could not fetter his mind or stifle his interest in more distinctly intellectual pursuits. After leaving school he devoted much time to the study of chemistry, French, and Latin, and received the degree of A. M. from Harvard University in 1850. But the great central fact of Mr. Bouvé's life was his deep and abiding love of nature. This was manifested at a very early age, and throughout his long and busy life he was an ardent and steadfast student of natural history. His lifelong friend and associate, Dr. James C. White, justly describes him as a fine example of the amateur naturalist, and what this class has done for the advancement of science in this country.

Mr. Bouvé was only fifteen years old when the Boston Society of Natural History was founded. Four years later he became a member of the Society; and his labors in its behalf extended over more than threescore years, the period of his membership being the longest in its history. In fact, it was in connection with the Boston Society of Natural History, and especially in the building up of its collections, that his interest in natural history was chiefly manifested.

After serving the Society efficiently in almost every subordinate capacity, he was, in 1870, elevated to the presidency. The success of his administration is attested by the spontaneous and earnest expressions of regret when, in 1876, he desired to resign his high office. At the meeting prior to the annual election, to use his own words, "What was read as a valedictory was listened to with great attention, after which a call to proceed to the business of the meeting was made. Instead of responding to this call, one after another of those whom the writer most respected addressed him in such terms of affectionate remonstrance against his resignation, as to induce him not only to withdraw it, but to feel that henceforth what had been regarded as a burden would be a joy, that the performance of the duties of his office would be sweetened as never before by the recognition that the respect and regard which he felt towards all the members were fully reciprocated by them." In 1880, on the completion of the fiftieth year of the society, and his tenth year as president, he declined re-election. But he performed no greater service to the Society or science than is represented by the admirable history of the Society's first half-century contributed in this year to its memorial volume. We search in vain, however, through this painstaking record, for any adequate account of his own labors. Nevertheless, although belonging to a later generation, I have had abundant opportunity to learn with what rare zeal and fidelity he served the Society; and I feel justified in stating that its extensive and efficient collections of minerals, rocks, and fossils were in a large measure created by him. It was throughout evidently a labor of love on his part; and that fact alone can explain how he was able to find in these busiest years of his life the great amount of time which this work must have required. Nor did his devotion to these departments cease with his accession to the presidency. It was my privilege, during the greater part of the decade when he was at the head of the Society's affairs, to work with him or under his direction in the care of these collections; and I can, therefore, speak from intimate personal knowledge of his methods. What most strongly impressed me were his affectionate regard for the specimens, and his absolute conscientiousness in every detail of the work. I often recall with much profit his painstaking investigations of individual specimens. He spared no pains to remove the last modicum of doubt as to the authenticity of species, variety, locality, composition, or formation, nor hesitated to use the query mark when the desired result could not be attained. Working in this methodical manner, progress could not be rapid when measured by hours. But what was done was well done; and he came again the next day and the next, for half an hour or an hour in the morning and as long as daylight lasted in the afternoon, making this work, which he loved so well and called his recreation, a part of his daily routine. Thus month by month, without haste or faltering, important and enduring results were accomplished.

Although specially interested, as his published papers and the records show, in several branches of natural history, Mr. Bouvé's first love among the natural sciences was mineralogy. In the mineralogical annals of the Society three names are especially prominent, — Francis Alger, Charles T. Jackson, and Thomas T. Bouvé. These three men were contemporaries and lifelong friends; and each in his own way contributed in an important degree to the development of this department of the Museum. Mr. Bouvé was the youngest of the trio, and the period of his activity extended well into the modern era in the history of educational methods. He was thus led to a deeper appreciation of the value of minerals as a factor in elementary education. It is therefore probably well within bounds to say, that for this reason, and because of his greater length of service, Mr. Bouvé has done more than any other one man to make this collection what it is to-day, an important adjunct of the educational system of the community.

During the years when we worked together upon the minerals, I had the pleasure of hearing from his lips the history, both in general and in detail, of a large part of the collection; and whether the specimens had been collected by himself or a fellow member, or obtained by purchase or exchange, his evident love for them made me feel that I was being introduced to his dear friends, whose care he was reluctant to relinquish to another.

His appreciation of the beautiful in minerals culminated in his well known fondness for gems; and these he did not value commercially, but only in proportion to their intrinsic beauty and scientific interest. This study forced upon his attention the unsatisfactory nature of the criteria, such as color and lustre, commonly relied upon in the identification of cut stones; and led him to test more thoroughly than had been done before the relatively fundamental property of specific gravity. In his valuable paper on this subject he demonstrated to the satisfaction of Professor Dana, and other high authorities, that while each of the mineral species to which the gems belong varies notably in specific gravity, so that the several species overlap and are indistinguishable by this character, the gems, being in every instance the purest and most ideal forms of their respective species, are essentially constant, and only rarely so nearly of the same density as not to be readily and certainly distinguished by careful weighing.

Mr. Bouvé's later contributions to scientific literature relate chiefly to the geology of the Boston Basin, and especially of the South Shore. These papers include: (1.) "The Genesis of the Boston Basin and its Rock Formations," in which for the first time the importance of the antecedent chemical decay of the older rocks in explaining the origin of the conglomerates and slates is adequately recognized. (2.) "The Indian Potholes or Giant's Kettles of Foreign Writers," a carefully illustrated and in every way admirable account of the most interesting group of glacial potholes yet discovered in this region. (3.) The chapter on the geology of Hingham, prepared for the town history. This was by far his most important study, and it was my good fortune to be intimately associated with him in this work, which extended over a period of half a dozen years.

I have never found field-work more enjoyable or profitable; and, as in the Museum, I was deeply impressed by Mr. Bouvé's unselfish singleness of purpose, his high appreciation of the educational value of the local geology, and his painstaking thoroughness. He labored, not for fame, but for the advancement of the community in which he lived. He never counted time or strength while there seemed to be any possibility of verifying a fact or testing a conclusion; and in this contribution to the town history he realized in gratifying measure his ideal, which was not merely to set forth the geologic structure of the town, but to show his fellow townspeople that in its geological history Hingham is in a large degree an epitome of the world, and that within the narrow limits of the town are presented problems as stupendous and full of interest as any that have ever engaged the attention of geologists.

The part of this work relating to the surface geology or drift phenomena was subsequently amplified and published as a separate paper in in the Proceedings of the Natural History Society. Not content with giving to Hingham and the world the intellectual results of his labors, Mr. Bouvé placed in the town library, as an additional stimulus to interest in the local geology, a well selected and carefully labelled series of the Hingham rocks. To these he subsequently added the main part of his extensive collection of minerals. The arrangement and labelling of this generous gift to the town, almost his last public work, was frequently interrupted by his failing health; and he experienced no little satisfaction in not being obliged to leave it unfinished.

Nothing connected with his work on the geology of the South Shore has afforded the writer more pleasure than the privilege, in association with Mr. A. W. Grabau, of giving the name of our friend to the glacial lake which once adorned that region, and was a controlling factor in the development of the surface geology. Mr. Bouvé lived long enough to note the general and cordial acceptance of this name; and I venture to hope that it may long endure as a fitting memorial of this earliest and most devoted student of the geology of the district which embraces Lake Bouvé.

W. O. Crosby.

FRANCIS AMASA WALKER.

Francis Amasa Walker, late President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Fellow of this Academy from October, 1882, was born in Boston, July 2, 1840, and died of apoplexy in that city, January 5, 1897.

His father, the late Amasa Walker of North Brookfield, was a well known figure in the political life of Massachusetts for many years. He was a leader in the Free Soil movement of 1848, and in the subsequently combined opposition to the Whig party. He served in each branch of the Legislature, was for two years Secretary of the Commonwealth, was a Presidential Elector in 1860, and a member of the lower House of Congress for the session of 1862–63. From 1842 to 1848 he lectured on political economy in Oberlin College, and was afterwards a frequent writer for periodicals, especially upon topics connected with finance and banking, in which he also showed special interest when in Congress. From 1859 to 1869 he was Lecturer upon Political Economy in Amherst College, publishing during that time his well known book, the "Science of Wealth," and died in 1875.

Francis Amasa Walker, the son, thus grew up with an inherited predilection and aptitude for economic study, strengthened by the associations of boyhood and youth. When he graduated from Amherst College in 1860, however, his first step was to enter as a student of law the office of Charles Devens and George F. Hoar of Worcester, — both gentlemen destined, like himself, soon to attain national reputation. On the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861, Mr. Devens at first took the field as an officer of militia, and, when later he raised the Fifteenth Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry in Worcester County, young Walker enlisted and was mustered into the service as Sergeant Major, August 1, 1861. Ten days later, he was commissioned and assigned to the staff of